

18. The particle of claim 13, wherein said magnetic core comprises a composite material comprising a mica core and magnetic particles immobilized on said mica core.

19. A method for separating a biological material from a fluid containing the biological material comprising:

- a) bringing a sample that contains the biological material in a fluid in contact with a particle of claim 17 under conditions such that the biological material binds to the glass surface; and thereafter
- b) separating the bound biological material from the fluid.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein the biological material is a nucleic acid.

21. The method of claim 19 wherein the bound biological material is separated from the fluid with the aid of a magnetic field.

22. The method of claim 19 wherein the particle is not subjected to the influence of a magnetic field before being brought in contact with said sample and is thus able to sediment when being brought in contact with the sample.

23. A method for separating nucleic acids from a fluid containing the nucleic acids comprising:

- a) bringing a sample that contains nucleic acids in a fluid in contact with a magnetic particle comprising a magnetic core and an outer glass layer, wherein said outer glass layer comprises boron oxide, said outer glass layer completely covers the magnetic core and has an outer glass surface, wherein the outer glass surface is substantially pore free or has pores with a diameter of less than 10 nm under conditions such that the nucleic acids can bind to the glass surface; and thereafter